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be a hard-headed Philistine, he cannot resist the appeal of missions when the special call is made. The most eloquent messages of the gospel are simple, plain, unadorned, missionary, facts. The men who deliver the great missionary messages begin with facts and end with facts. They do not

suffer their messages to be obstructed with philosophical deductions or conclusions. Missionary facts have in them a great human interest appeal, such an appeal as will win men and women. Missionary facts should be trusted and used more in our missionary messages.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Malden Council of Religious Education, Program for 1917-18

This Council is the incorporated body of representative citizens which has the general direction of the entire system of community religious education in the town of Malden, Massachusetts. For some time much has been said of the need of a community religious education program, but there is general confusion as to just what should constitute such a program. There are many programs appearing in the literature relating to this subject. They are good to look at and to read, but will they work out successfully when applied? Again, it is very difficult to formulate a religious education program for an entire community and at the same time see that it has the proper proportion and balance. The following shows a balanced program in actual operation at Malden, as given in the *Pilgrim Magazine of Religious Education*, February:

I. Popular Lecture Course on Religious Education. Each lecture is given by an acknowledged specialist. No admission fee, but a silver offering is received to apply on the budget of the Council. The following are some of the subjects which have been presented: Building Character through Children's Choirs (illustrated), by Professor H. Augustine Smith; The Bible and Community Life, by Bishop Edwin H. Hughes; Architecture and Religion (illustrated), by Mr. W. L. Mowll.

II. Public Programs of Malden Festival Chorus. This chorus meets weekly for rehearsal at the parish house of the First Baptist Church at the hours: grammar-grade girls, four to five o'clock, and grammar-grade boys, five to six

o'clock, Tuesday. Sunday: high-school girls and mixed adult chorus, three-thirty to four-thirty o'clock. Two public programs will be given in Boston during the year and two in Malden.

III. Meetings of Council for Study of Specific Problems. The Council meets four or five times each year for open forum discussion and for definite study of special topics which are of immediate interest. Four special commissions have been appointed for the study of important community problems, as follows: (1) community music, festivals, and pageants; (2) week-day religious schools; (3) co-ordination of Malden's community-welfare agencies; (4) relationship of public, church, parochial, and synagogue schools. Special meetings are held during the year, the program for which is furnished and directed by these different commissions.

IV. Conference Meetings of Special Groups. From time to time during the year the Council calls together special groups of teachers, and other groups of moral and religious agencies, to discuss the professional and technical problems involved in a community program of religious education.

V. The Malden School of Religious Education. This meets every Tuesday night and works upon a very definite and significant program.

A Primary Sunday-School Program for Easter

For many of the Sunday-school children Easter has no very significant meaning. From the emphasis placed upon certain things they get the idea that it is at least a day to be celebrated with colored eggs and Easter rabbits. Just why so it is not very clear. If special programs are arranged they

are often composed of a meaningless collection of petty things, they are too long, and they prove very tiresome for the primary children. The *Westminster Teacher*, February, discusses this subject and gives a program which was carried out very successfully in Broadway Presbyterian Sunday School, Rock Island, Illinois. The primary department had its own special Easter service. To this the parents were invited. The program was as follows:

1. Opening song ("Songs for Little People").
2. Lord's Prayer and Bible verses.
3. Missionary offering, with brief explanation of where the money was to go and what was to be done with it. Then the "offering hymn" was sung ("Songs for Little People").
4. Kindergarten game, "The Little Worm," was given by several of the very small children, illustrating how the worm goes to sleep in winter and awakes in springtime as a beautiful butter-

fly. The other children held up their hands to make flower cups, and the butterfly flew here and there and sipped the honey.

5. Easter story told by the superintendent.

6. Superintendent held up a packet of flower seeds, and recited two short verses, "The Seeds' Story." A similar packet was given to each child, and children and teachers repeated the verses together. "Nature's Easter Story" was the closing song, participated in by all the children ("Song Stories for the Sunday School").

The program lasted for less than thirty-five minutes. There were no individual recitations or songs and nobody was self-conscious or embarrassed. There were no distractions and attention was held to the sweet Easter story. The mothers did not even talk among themselves, for they were too much interested. The little children were very happy in carrying out such a program.

CHURCH EFFICIENCY

Emergency War Measures

A national crisis is upon us and heavy responsibilities are upon all the people. The time has come for universal diligence and co-operation. There are certain deciding human factors in this war. Among these are: "the condition of the men at the front, the resources of the nation, an adequate food supply, a spirit of unity in plan and action, and a sacrificial loyalty to democracy." In the midst of the responsibilities involved very heavy demands are made upon the churches for competent leadership, for war relief, and for multiplied forms of service. To call attention to the things that are now most urgent, the Social Service Committee of the American Baptist Publication Society, through its secretary, Samuel Zane Batten, D.D., submits a statement in the *Sunday School World*, January, based upon a declaration adopted by the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America in a special meeting held in Washington, D.C.

In the first place the churches are in chief measure responsible for the moral and spiritual welfare of the army and navy. For this reason they should cultivate close relationship with the chaplains and the Y.M.C.A., an especially equipped and tested arm of the church for ministering to men in the camps. Also sympathetic support should be given to the plan of the American Bible Society to make the Scriptures available to all soldiers and sailors.

Economic, moral, and religious considerations alike demand national prohibition as a war measure. In the liquor traffic we have an enormous waste of food, labor, and other material resources, not to mention the heavy draft on health, life, and morality. The nation can no longer afford such waste. The churches must lay hold of this task with renewed earnestness.

Our sex standards must be upheld. Lust and its deadly consequences are increased by war. Excitement and strain and the